

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS OF
MARYVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of Maryville Elementary School in Maryville, Illinois, and their important and heartwarming efforts to help those affected by terrorism.

On October 11, 2001, President Bush made a request of the children of America. He challenged each of them to earn and send in one dollar. This money, sent by the kindness of the children of the United States, will be used to reach out to the unfortunate children in far off Afghanistan.

The students of Maryville Elementary School heard and met that challenge. They sponsored a school-wide fundraising effort—spearheaded by their Citizenship Committee—during this last October and November. Once they were finished, several of their students visited my Collinsville office to present me personally with their donation: \$198.20, which I have passed on to the Fund here in Washington, D.C.

The students, parents, faculty, and members of the Maryville community should be recognized for their fine efforts. The terrorists believed they could accomplish their goals with the murder of American innocents; but the American citizens have responded with aid to the innocent of Afghanistan. Nothing else could better show how utterly al Qaeda has failed.

Mr. Speaker, as President Bush said in his announcement of the Fund for Afghan Children, "One of the truest weapons that we have against terrorism is to show the world the true strength of character of the American people." The children of Maryville Elementary have shown that character, and they deserve our thanks. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING LEBANESE
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Lebanese American community in celebrating the 58th anniversary of Lebanese independence.

On November 22, 1943 Lebanon obtained its independence from France. Shortly thereafter, Lebanon became a founding member of both the United Nations and League of Arab States. Signaling its commitment to the idea

that human rights were global and that is was ready to be a full-partner in the post World War II world, Lebanon played an integral part in the drafting of one of the UN's most distinguished documents—the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As one of the world's early cradles of civilization, Lebanon has long been held up as an example of prosperity and perseverance. In its recent history, Lebanon has suffered a great deal, but to truly understand the spirit of the Lebanese people one only need to look at the way in which they have rebuilt their nation. While much remains to be done, the nation's progress is an example from which we can all learn.

The United States and Lebanon have been blessed by a historically strong friendship, owing in part to the emigration of Lebanon's sons and daughters. They embraced America with open arms and their contributions helped build a greater nation. This relationship is best exemplified by the following familiar words, first spoken by a proud Lebanese American: "Are you a politician asking what your country can do for you or a zealous one asking what you can do for your country?" Those are the words of Kahlil Gibran, a poet who frequently wove beauty and justice into his work and in the process touched the heart and meaning of America.

Today, I think we have reason to reflect on another of Gibran's contributions, one that holds a great lesson for us all. "To be a good citizen is to acknowledge the other person's rights before asserting your own, but always to be conscious of your own."

Since 1965, nearly 100,000 new immigrants have come from Lebanon. My home state of Michigan has one of the largest Lebanese American communities in the country and it has been actively involved in the life of our great state. The Lebanese community willingly shares its culture and values not only with Michigan, but with the entire nation. The result has been innumerable contributions to the arts, sports, medicine, politics, education, science and industry.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Lebanon, those of Lebanese ancestry around the world and the Lebanese American community in celebrating Lebanese Independence Day. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

CONGRATULATING DR. PETE
MEHAS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Pete Mehas on the

occasion of his recognition as the 2001 Breaking Barriers for Children Award Honoree. Break the Barriers, Inc., partners able-bodied performers with disabled youth to explore and break barriers and celebrate all levels of victories and achievements. This award is intended to honor the contribution of an outstanding individual who has made service to children a priority in his or her life.

Dr. Mehas has a lengthy list of credentials and service to the community, State of California, and our great Nation. He has promoted education under governors and presidents alike. His expertise and advice are sought by leaders from all levels of government.

His resume includes service under former California Governor Deukmejian as the director of the Governor's Office of Education Planning and Policy Committee and on the State Board of Education. Dr. Mehas has also served on the U.S. Secretary of Education's National Advisory Committee on Accreditation and Institutional Eligibility and former President George Bush's advisory committee on Latino education. He has received numerous awards and was elected Fresno County Superintendent of Schools in 1990 and is currently serving his third consecutive term with unanimous support from Fresno area Democrat and Republican legislators.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Dr. Pete Mehas for this award. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this dedicated educator and wishing him many more years of continued success as he receives the 2001 Breaking Barriers for Children Award.

A TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE S.
RUDY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased to rise today to acknowledge Stephanie S. Rudy for the depth and diversity of contributions she has made to so many local organizations in Colorado.

Stephanie's energy is boundless, her smile matchless, and her compassion far-reaching. She is a dedicated advocate for the arts and one of the rarest and most wonderful talents in our community. This year she was selected by the Denver Foundation as the recipient of the "Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award," which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the city of Denver and their community through volunteerism. She also was chosen by the Boulder Chamber of Commerce to receive the "Women Who Light Up The Community" honor.

Among the many organizations Stephanie has enriched with her talents are the "Open

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